

JACKSON COUNTY THE BANNER

Students venture to IUPUI for conference

[Print Page](#)

A cooperative effort between the Purdue School of Engineering and Technology at IUPUI and the Indiana Department of Education brought together more than 300 students from 17 Indiana high schools at the IUPUI campus in Indianapolis last Friday, Feb. 20. With 51 students, Seymour High School brought the largest student group to the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) student conference, held during National Engineers Week.

The PLTW student conference is part of a larger curriculum initiative that promotes pre-engineering courses for high school students. The PLTW program allows participating students to take courses through which they can earn scholarship opportunities and potentially receive college credit at IUPUI. While the curriculum was first instituted in New York State high schools in 1997, Indiana now boasts the most participants in the program.

Dr. Tony Bennett, Superintendent of Public Instruction, was keynote speaker for the event. "Project Lead The Way is a great example of a program that engages future Hoosier engineers while they are still in high school, helps them prepare a career path as they start thinking about college, and shows them the sort of cutting edge projects they may one day be working on," said Bennett. "We're proud Students had the opportunity to engage in two career-themed sessions as well as a "hands-on" session. "Hands-on" sessions presented by IUPUI faculty, staff and students focused on topics such as bridge design, digital forensics, metal casting, advanced manufacturing and electronic music. For the career themed sessions professionals presented on various subjects. Those who presented had careers related to mechanical engineering, computer engineering, electrical engineering, construction technology, biomedical engineering, motorsports engineering, computer graphics and more.

Bob Sexton, PLTW teacher at Seymour, attended the conference with the students. "Since our first PLTW conference three years ago, I've really watched this program grow. My students started asking me about the conference weeks ago, and this year we completely filled the bus," said Sexton. "The PLTW curriculum and conference allow students to see the connection between the math and science skills they are learning and how these skills are applied in the real world.

Hosting the conference for the fifth year, IUPUI was very pleased with the turnout and feedback from the event. "Bringing students, teachers, and professionals together to participate in events like this are fantastic opportunities for the university and all that are involved. We are fostering the growth of interest in engineering and technology while connecting students and instructors with curriculum that raises the standards of learning and provides a distinct advantage," said Dr. Yurtseven, Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology, IUPUI.

Copyright © 2009 Jackson County Banner
116 E Cross Street, Brownstown, IN 47220